

One of the many reasons that I strongly opposed President Clinton's 1993 budget was that it violated our contract with military and civil service retirees by delaying the payment of their annual cost of living adjustments. Further, this legislation treated both groups differently by providing for a 3 month delay in the payment of benefits for civil service retirees but a 9 month delay in the payment of benefits for military retirees.

There is no doubt in my mind that those men and women who risked their lives in the defense of our great Nation are willing to do their part to help get our fiscal house in order. What they expect and deserve, though, is fairness. This legislation restores fairness and equity so that military retirees are treated the same as other Federal retirees.

Last year, the Appropriations Subcommittee on National Defense was successful in providing the funds necessary to eliminate the disparity between the effective dates for military and civilian retiree COLA's for 1995. While we were successful in eliminating the COLA disparity for this year, President Clinton's 1996 budget request still left a disparity in the adjustment dates for the next 3 years.

To resolve this issue and restore pension equity, the House included an important provision in the Balanced Budget Act we approved on October 26th which eliminates this disparity by placing military retiree COLAs on the same schedule as those for Federal retirees. We recognize in the House that asking military personnel, their families and retirees to accept a substantial reduction in retirement benefits is an affront to those who serve, and those who have served. This is an issue of fairness to the more than 1.5 million military retirees across our Nation.

Unfortunately, the Senate insisted on dropping this provision from the conference report on the Balanced Budget Act which we considered in the House yesterday. Because I believe this issue is so important and should be dealt with immediately, I have introduced H.R. 2664 with 130 co-sponsors to restore COLA equity for military and civil service retirees.

While some may propose changing our Nation's military retirement benefits to achieve further budget savings, as the Chairman of the National Security Appropriations Subcommittee my priority is to ensure that promises made to our Nation's military personnel are kept. I have steadfastly opposed any changes which break this pact and treat veterans and military retirees unfairly and would urge the House leadership to expedite the consideration of H.R. 2664.

A SALUTE TO THE CFL CHAMPION BALTIMORE STALLIONS

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of my hometown Baltimore Stallions, 1995's Grey Cup CFL Champions. This class organization, in just its second year of existence, has become the first American team to win the Grey Cup, Canadian football's version of the Super Bowl.

Led by C.F.L. most valuable player Mike Pringle, along with the quarterback Tracy Ham

and an excellent supporting cast, the Stallions victory in their second consecutive Grey Cup appearance is proof that football has, indeed, been alive and well in Baltimore for quite some time now. In winning the Grey Cup, the Stallions have capped off a remarkable season this year by finishing 18-3, a new C.F.L. record.

This victory also completes a football trifecta for Baltimore as we become the first city to have won an N.F.L. title, a U.S.F.L. title, and now our latest, a C.F.L. crown for our Stallions. I am proud to be a Baltimorean today Mr. Speaker, as I congratulate the 1995 C.F.L. Champion Baltimore Stallions.

THE GANG RESISTANCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and draw attention to an effective program worthy of commendation and support. The Gang Resistance Education and Training program, [G.R.E.A.T.], The program, developed in 1991, is sponsored by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Currently, the program is taught in 45 States by over 1,300 officers representing 548 agencies. During the 1995-1996 school year, over 21,000 students will receive the G.R.E.A.T. curriculum in Prince George's County, MD.

The G.R.E.A.T. program is a prevention program designed to help seventh graders become more responsible members of their communities. It establishes a joint enterprise between the police, the school system, and parents and provides a unique educational program which helps students set goals for themselves, resist hostile or illegal peer pressure, learn how to resolve conflicts without violence, and understand how gangs could ruin their lives.

Not a day goes by without negative stories about our Nation's young people and their increasing involvement in criminal activity. This builds a strong case for involving our young people in programs that compensate for the crime and violence, drugs and alcohol abuse, and negative activity that is all too prevalent in our society. Timely and well-managed programs such as G.R.E.A.T. and strong support can make the difference between a wasted and a productive life.

The future of America's children remains precarious. In our society, young people are confronted with the difficult task of overcoming many obstacles which threaten their maturation. As we look towards the future of this great Nation, this is a loss our country cannot afford. Fostering development of programs that promote successful passage from adolescence to adulthood is the right thing to do because we help prevent youth from adopting antisocial and irresponsible lifestyles.

As gangs and gang related violence rise in our country, preventive programs will be on the forefront of the fight in reducing crime and substance abuse. I will continue to support the G.R.E.A.T. program and others which enable our youth to realize they have positive options for their future.

Today I was joined at a press conference by Brett Sturgill, an eighth grader at Benjamin Tasker Middle School in Bowie, MD. His statements clearly illustrate the success of the G.R.E.A.T. program and the necessity of continuing to expand the program in order to reach more of our children. I respectfully submit that his remarks be entered into the RECORD.

G.R.E.A.T. PRESS CONFERENCE

During my seventh grade year here at Tasker, I took part in the G.R.E.A.T. program. G.R.E.A.T. is Gang Resistance Education and Training. We learned that we all have basic needs. Three physical needs are food, water, and shelter. But just as important are three emotional needs of love, caring, and understanding. These three emotional needs should be met by your family and friends. But sometimes when there are problems in families, kids turn to gangs. We learned that this is not good because gangs are groups of people out to do harm. Gang activities often lead to crime and with every crime there is always a victim. We role-played various gang situations and discussed victim's rights.

We learned the importance of the extended family which includes not only immediate family but other relatives and friends who are supportive of us. Each family has traditions and rituals which are part of their culture. These traditions can be anything from opening gifts on Christmas Eve to having pizza on Friday nights to special celebrations for birthdays. These traditions and rituals are important because they make us feel like we are a part of the family. We also learned that it is important to respect other people's cultures.

Conflict resolution was another important part of G.R.E.A.T. We learned that when there is a conflict we should first identify the problem. Then we need to think about our possible choices and the consequences of each choice. After that we should decide which action would be best and then do it. The last thing is to think about our action and the consequences of it. Did the problem work out okay? Did we make a good choice?

We also learned that we have responsibilities at home, at school, and in the neighborhood. These might be taking out the trash, feeding the dog, doing the dishes, shoveling the driveway for a neighbor, or doing our best in school.

Goal setting is another important part of G.R.E.A.T. A goal is something you want to do in the future. They can be short term goals like getting an A on an Algebra test or long term goals like going to college.

Set goals, be responsible, be a part of an extended family of relatives and friends who support each other, and avoid groups of people who are out to do harm. That is the message of G.R.E.A.T.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AWARD

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, recently my very good friend SONNY MONTGOMERY was honored for his service to our Nation's veterans. I would like to insert the following statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, so that all Members may share in this tribute:

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AWARD

On November 9, 1995, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and